ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Mobile Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH,

WHISTLER, MOBILE CO., ALA.,

AUGUST 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH,

1897.

OFFICERS:

R. L. MAUPIN,.....Moderator.

G. J. ROBERTSON,.....Clerk and Treasurer.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD WITH

ZION CHURCH,

MOBILE COUNTY, ALA.,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 1898,

AT 10 O'CLOCK A. M.

MOBILE STATIONERY CO. POWER PRINT, MOBILE, ALA

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call to order by former Moderator.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Election of Officers: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint Special Committees, viz:
   (a) Devotional, (b) Nominations,
   (c) Finance, (d) Deceased Ministers.
7. Receive Correspondence and Visitors.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Reports of Standing Committees:
    (1) Executive Committee.
    (2) Missions: (a) State, (b) Home, (c) Foreign.
    (3) Education.
    (4) Temperance.
    (5) Woman's Work.
    (6) Sunday Schools.
    (7) Publication and Colportage.
    (8) Orphanage.
11. Report of Special Committeess:
    (a) Nomination, (b) Deceased Ministers; (c) Finance.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Elect Executive Committee.
14. Appoint Standing Committees.
15. Elect Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Adjournment.

MINUTES

MOBILE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

WHISTLER, ALABAMA.

FIRST DAY—August 5th, 1897.

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1. The Mobile Baptist Association met this day with Bethany Church in its seventeenth session, at 8 o'clock P. M. The meeting was called to order by its former Moderator, R. L. Maupin. After devotional exercises J. J. Taylor preached the introductory sermon, Matthew 25: 23: "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." After singing, "Blessed Assurance" H. P. Hanson pronounced the benediction, and the Association adjourned to meet next morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session, August 6.

2. The Association met at the appointed hour, R. L. Maupin acting Moderator and G. J. Robertson acting Clerk. After singing, H. G. B. Ray led in prayer.

3. W. A. Alexander and G. J. Robertson were appointed to read the church letters and the list of delegates and visitors was begun, and afterwards completed as follows:

St. Francis Street—J. J. Taylor, R. L. Maupin, G. J. Robertson, H. S. Stackhouse, W. T. West, W. A. Alexander, Jas. L. Coleman.

Palmetto Street—H. H. Shell, J. A. Stikes, W. J. Young, J. M. Hall.

Bethany—D. W. Bosdell, E. P. H. Judd, T. C. Gaston, S. Philyah, Miss Belle Woods.

Zion—W. H. Pollard, R. F. Farnelle, J. H. Bolton.

Shady Grove—A. J. Hubbard, Noel Turner.

Union—S. L. Freeland, A. B. Gaston, W. O. Deakle.

Shell Banks—H. P. Hanson, J. D. Nelson, John A. Nelson, T. E. Hanson.

Mt. Pleasant—J. R. Newell, J. B. Allen.

Bay Minette—A. M. Thompson, E. O. Stapleton.

Grand Bay—J. E. Alberson.

Bayou le Batre—O. T. White.

Citronelle—T. W. Coleman, Miss Mary Metzger.

Mauvilla—Wm. A. King.

Bay Shore—Not represented.

Brook Cedron—Not represented.

Pine Grove—Not represented.

Visitors—F. M. Roof, President of Howard College, and H. C. Mason, from Chickasawha Association.

On motion, Bro. F. M. Roof and Bro. H. C. Mason were admitted to the privileges of the floor.

4. W. A. Alexander moved that the Clerk be instructed to cast the vote of the Association for R. L. Maupin as Moderator, which was unanimously adopted.

5. The office of Clerk and Treasurer was then taken up, and after some discussion G. J. Robertson was elected.

6. The newly organized Mauvilla Church presented a letter asking admission into the Association, and on motion of W. A. Alexander the new church was admitted, and the Moderator extended the hand of fellowship on behalf of the body.

7. On motion, the Order of Business printed in the minutes of last year was adopted.

8. Bro. J. C. Williams, of the Mauvilla Church was, on motion, received as a delegate.

9. The Chair appointed the pastor, deacons and elders of Bethany Church, a Committee on Devotional Exercises and hours of meeting. A recess of ten minutes was then granted.

10. After devotional exercises, Bro. J. F. Bynum preached from Rom. 1: 15: "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

11. D. W. Bosdell, from the committee, reported that on account of the railroad shops giving the employees from 12 to 1 for dinner, the committee would recommend that the Association meet at 9 o'clock a. m., adjourn at 12 m; meet again at 2:30 p. m., adjourn at 5 p. m.; meet again at 7:30 at night and adjourn at pleasure. Adopted.

12. The Association then adjourned after singing "Rock of Ages," and prayer led by H. P. Hanson.

SECOND DAY—Afternoon Session.

13. The Association met at 2:30 P. M. and joined in devotional exercises led by the Moderator.

14. The following special committees were announced:

On Nominations—H. H. Shell, Noel Turner, J. H. Bolton.

On Finance—G. J. Robertson, W. A. Alexander, T. C. Gaston.

On Deceased Ministers—J. H. Bynum, H. P. Hanson, W. P. Roberts.

15. In the absence of the Chairman, W. J. Young read the

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee Beg to Report as Follows:

The course adopted by our Association in grouping the churches together (that are not financially able within themselves) in calling a pastor to serve them as locations admit, has proven to work good results. We have used seventy-five per cent. of all collections for State Missions in supplementing pastors' salaries at the following churches, viz:

Mt Pleasant	Allowed	$ 50 00	Paid	to	date		$ 15 00
Shady Grove	"	60 00	"	"	"		55 00
Citronelle	"	100 00	"	"	"		72 00
Bayou le Batre	"	75 00	"	"	"		60 00
Grand Bay	"	75 00	"	"	"		60 00
Mauvilla	"	.....	"	"	"		10 00
Eastern Shore Churches	"	150 00	"	"	"	.....	.....
							$272 00

We could not get other churches to unite in calling a suitable pastor, or agree to send your committee monthly collections. Though we have weak churches in close proximity, we fear they do not realize the great need of pushing forward our Master's work as He has commanded.

We feel that our showing for the past year is not one for the Baptists of Mobile and Baldwin Counties to look back on with pride, as to

work done or the salvation of souls, yet your committee feel that their labors have not been in vain, and we realize that every pledge on our part has been faithfully executed.

We have been blessed in our efforts to supply the churches with funds as supplementary to their own current collections, and we pray God that He may open the hearts of our members to so contribute, as we may see our cause flourish in the year to come, as we have never experienced heretofore.

We recommend more systematic collections toward Missions, to be forwarded to our Treasurer regularly.

Respectfully submitted,

E. O. Fowlkes,

for the Committee.

16. On motion, the report was made the special order for the evening session.

17. W. A. Alexander read the

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in reporting the operations for the past year says: "The hardest year ever experienced by the Home Mission Board has passed into history." From the reading of the report we gather that this *hardness* has reference to the large deficit of $28,000 facing the Board at the begining of the year, the general depression of business, stringency in money matters and their inability to reduce expenses without impairing the efficiency of their work. The result of the year's work, however, we are glad to know, has been most successful, in that it has been owned and wonderfully blessed by the Master. We present a partial

SUMMARY.

"Missionaries employed, 372. Baptisms, 4,709; received by letter, 4,746; total, 9,455. Churches constituted, 139. Houses of worship built, 57; Houses of worship improved, 129. Amount expended on houses of worship, $52,040; ($51,089.69 of this amount was collected on the field by the missionaries of the Board, and expended in the construction and improvements of houses of worship.) Sunday schools organized, 313. Teachers and scholars, 10,725." The special attention of the Association is directed to the 9,455 increase in membership, the $52,040 expended on houses of worship, and the organization of 313 Sunday schools, with nearly 11,000 teachers and scholars.

From the foregoing summary it will readily be seen that the Home Mission Board is accomplishing a wonderfully successful work, a work that should be recognized and appreciated by the Baptists of the South. But, while this is so, the fact remains, that compared with the work necessary and possible to be done, it has hardly been touched. Space prevents the Committee from presenting the work of the Board as fully as they would like, or its needs require. In brief then :—

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

The Board makes grateful acknowledgements to the Woman's Missionary Societies of the South for invaluable service and generous contributions in behalf of the work of the Board. From the report of the Treasurer we note a grand total contribution in cash and boxes of $29,931.31.

WORK AMONG NEGROES.

The Board reports that their plan of work adopted some years ago and selected as the best to uplift the colored people has outlived all opposition. We quote from a letter to the Board from one of the colored missionaries: "The colored Baptists are the spiritual children of the white Baptists, for we must concede, we are what we are, only by reason of their labors of sacrifice and love. * * * Upon the foundation already laid we have erected a superstructure of nearly two million colored Baptists. * * * Give us light. Open to us the scriptures, * * * and we promise that naught but death shall separate us."

THE WORK AMONG FOREIGN POPULATIONS.

"Needs to be greatly extended. * * * There are tens of thousands of these people, * * * where we are now working; * * * Missouri alone has 800,000. * * * This is a hard and difficult field. Minds that have been imbued with the doctrines of a corrupt christianity unfold themselves slowly under the Sun of Righteousness, but the impressions they receive are enduring, * * * and the fruit of their godly lives is cheering to behold. The liberality of our German churches is not less than fourfold greater than that of our English speaking people. The work we are now doing is but preparatory to that greater work which will be demanded of us when the tide of emigration shall turn southward to the mines and factories and fields of our Southern land."

CUBA.

"The enforced removal of all our pastors from that island more than a year ago left the work in the hands of the body of the membership. * * * But, such has been the diligence and faithfulness, especially of the women,

that the schools have been continued, the prayer meetings and religious services on the Sabbath day observed, and quite a number who have professed their faith in Christ are awaiting baptism. * * * There is no reason to be discouraged."

OUR CITIES.

"While the past work of the Board has been largely in the country, the growing towns and cities have not been neglected. Churches have been aided in not less than ninety per cent. of our most important centers of population. The changing conditions of our civilization are carrying larger numbers to our cities than ever before. * * * This impetus of city growth is reaching our section of the country. * * * Trade is moving southward. * * * The exportation of corn from Baltimore, Hampton Roads and New Orleans is nearly three times as great as from Boston, New York and Philadelphia. * * * It is painful to see how vast is this department of our work, and how inadequate are our resources to perform it. * * * How with our scanty income we are to meet the demands of this great work is an unsolved problem."

FRONTIER MISSIONS.

"West of the Mississippi river lies a vast field, the fabulous wealth of whose undeveloped resources science has failed to grasp. * * * From it there has come for years the cry for greater help than the Board has been able to give, until it has been almost hushed in the hopelessness of despair."

THE INDIANS.

"Living within this territory is a race to whom we owe an obligation we can never fully repay. * * * The white people have grown rich and powerful upon the fields they once possessed. Their broad plantations, their growing cities, their huge factories, their long extended railroads, their schools and colleges, their houses and temples where they worship God, are all builded upon the land the Red Man possessed, and of which he was deprived by the bloody and unsparing hand of war. We cannot return him the land of which our fathers deprived him. That is lost to him forever. But we can turn his eye and heart to that better land, and lead him to that Redeemer who will give him an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, whose fadeless beauties shall be his forever."

MOUNTAIN REGION.

"Our mountain region * * * extending from Pennsylvania to Central Alabama, and from the Piedmont region of the Southeast to the blue

grass fields of Kentucky and Tennessee is one of the most wonderful regions of the globe. It embraces an area of about one hundred and forty thousand square miles. * * * The people who live in much of this area are strongly inclined to our Baptist faith, but there is among them a marked absence of the spirit of progress in things both material and spiritual. Many of them are poor, and their intellectual advancement is in keeping with their physical condition. Other denominations are realizing the importance of this field and are exerting every effort to possess themselves of its advantages. The Mormons have sent to the southeastern section of our country, four hundred missionaries. Many of these are laboring among these mountain people. What a shame it will be to us as Baptists if we lose this promising field, and allow others to take our crown of glory. We rejoice in the progress of the gospel in foreign lands, in every triumph of the truth of God, * * * but we cannot forget that it is the triumph of christianity over the intellectual * * * and material forces * * * in this great nation that will insure the fulfillment of the Lord's command, to give His gospel to every creature. If the intelligence of our churches should ask, 'How can we most surely and speedily accomplish the divine purpose of subduing the earth to Messiah's reign?' the answer would be, 'We must evangelize America.'"

ENLARGED BENEFICENCE.

"The experience of the last three years demonstrates the necessity of increasing the number of our people who contribute to missions. * * * The number of those who contribute to mission work does not equal one-third of our membership. * * * The fact that a denomination whose churches all lie in the area of our convention, and whose membership though not more than one-seventh of our own contributes without special effort more money to foreign missions than Southern Baptists can be made to give under whip and spur, shows a condition which demands a speedy remedy. * * * These facts justify the assertion, that of the one million five hundred thousand upon our church rolls, not less than one million have no interest in mission work, and never make any contribution to it. * * * In view of the importance of the evangelization of our country, * * * the Board realizes how inadequate are its present resources for the work committed to its hands. Five times its present income would not fully meet the demand made upon it."

The Board asks the Convention to lend its moral support to an earnest effort to raise next year for its work not less than one hundred thousand dollars. It is perfectly in the power of our people to raise one dollar per capita for mission work. They would do it if they were informed as to the needs that are pressing upon us, and had pastors who would lead them in this work for the Master.

The Committee earnestly hope that this Association will take such action as will result in carrying out the requests of the Home Mission Board. "That during this year our churches will contribute not less than one dollar per capita for mission work."

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMMITTEE.

The report was spoken to by W. A. Alexander and J. R. Newell, and adopted.

18. W. J. Young from the committee, read the

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The progress in Sunday school work is keeping pace with the progress of the times. We have 15 churches in our Association with a church membership of about 1,600, and about 1,200 Sunday school pupils. Out of these 15 churches only 3 are without Sunday schools. The work is steadily increasing, and it should occupy a foremost place in our hearts, for it is in the Sunday schools that in many instances, the first thoughts of our Saviour are impressed on many a mind.

To have a live church there should be connected with it a progressive Sunday school, for out of the Sunday schools the churches gather most of their new members and their increased working forces. The churches of this Association now without Sunday schools are urged to start this work at once, and within a very short time they will see the beneficial results of having a Sunday school connected with their church work.

The mission school of the St. Francis Street Church is progressing and has a bright future.

We regret to report that since our last meeting, the mission which was conducted by the Palmetto Street Church, has been discontinued for want of encouragement on the part of those for whose benefit it was established.

Since our last meeting, Union Mission Schools have been established at Hubbard's mill and Edenville (formerly Wheelerville) through the earnest efforts of Bros. J. W. Willis and T. Milton Thames respectively. Both of these schools are progressing and much good is expected from the labors of these brethren.

The Sunday school work is a grand work, and our church members, and parents especially, should take a more active interest in it than they are now doing. It is a sad truth that very few parents attend the exercises of the Sunday school, and they leave the spiritual education of their children entirely to the teachers and officers of the School, in many instances

with whom they have not even a personal acquaintance. This is not as it should be. Parents ought to encourage their children's attendance by example. Let the fathers and mothers connected with the churches of this Association from this time on encourage their children, and those who have charge of the Sunday schools, by their attendance at these services.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Young,

Geo. T. Litchfield,

Thos. W. Davis,

Committee.

The report was discussed by W. J. Young, H. P. Hanson, R. L. Maupin, L. L. Freeland, W. A. Alexander, H. H. Shell, T. C. Gaston, J. M. Hall and A. J. Hubbard, and adopted—adjourned with prayer led by J. J. Taylor.

SECOND DAY—Evening Session.

19. The association re-assembled at 7:30 p. m. The Moderator led the devotional exercises. The report of the Executive Committee was then ordered to be re-read by the Clerk, and was spoken to by G. J. Robertson, R. L. Maupin, H. P. Hanson, D. W. Bosdell, H. H. Shell, J. J. Taylor, and adopted.

20. The reports upon Foreign and State Missions were called for but was not ready. After singing "Come thou fount," special prayer for Rev. D. R. Cooper in his extreme illness and sufferings was offered, led by J. M. Hall. The Association then adjourned.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session, August 7.

21. The Association assembled at 9 o'clock. After devotional exercises the Clerk read the report on Temperance, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The words of Beecher are significant when he says, "Should a foreign army land on our shores to levy such a tax on us as intemperance levies, no mortal power could resist the swelling tide of indignation that would overwhelm it." Solomon says in Proverbs 23: 31: "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup." Of all the evils that unborn generations fall heir to, none is more baneful in its effects or more to be shunned than the curse of intemperance. When once the demon drink has fastened his poisonous and destructive fangs upon a human being he sucks and consumes his life blood day after day until every spark of vitality is gone, and a once powerful physique, a once brilliant intellect, will be supplanted by the crazed mind and emaciated form of the raving maniac. It is the duty of every christian to follow out the injunction contained in the opening quotation—"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red," and to totally abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors. Let every Christian church see to it that among the rank and file of its members, there are none but total abstainers, and this will be one more step in the right direction, one more step toward the perfection of the organization of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Hall, Chairman.

The report was spoken to by J. R. Newell, E. P. H. Judd, D. W. Bosdell and J. F. Bynum. At this juncture a written question from the audience was handed to the Clerk and ordered by the Moderator to be read. "Is there any use in our discussing temperance so long as we Christians accept whiskey-money to educate our young?" which stopped further discussion and the report was adopted.

22. Owing to the absence of the Chairman, the Clerk read the

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Through a special arrangement between the Executive Committee of our Association and the Secretary of the State Mission Board, 75 per cent. of all money contributed by our Association for State Mission Board during the past year has been returned to us, and we have supplemented the salaries of the pastors of the weak churches who were unable to support a pastor, and in this way the weak churches have been built up and strengthened. But, even yet, there is a great deal of destitution in our midst, and we need more missionaries in the field. We need more people to pray for missions, more people to pay to missions, more missionary information, more missionary consecration, more churches to adopt our plan of systematic beneficence, we need at least one hundred more missionaries in the field of Alabama.

JAS. L. COLEMAN, Chairman.

The report was adopted.

23. The report on Woman's Work was called for, and read by H. H. Shell.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

There is much earnest work done by our women individually, but somehow they are either loath to enter in our plans of co-operation, or are remiss in reporting their work. Therefore, it is exceedingly difficult to obtain anything like an accurate report.

Christian contact is imperative for christian growth. The plans for co-operative work among our women are solely to bring them into closer knowledge and sympathy with each other, and through these to stimulate greater consecration and activity in the Lord's cause. So many of our women are slow to accept the underlying motive and hold aloof from the work. Yet, through the efforts of the work, our women know each other and understand the struggles of each other to maintain the cause, better than ever before in the Association's history.

Two new societies have been organized, one at Shell Banks church, the other at the Dauphin Street Mission. One new Sunday school of thirty pupils in the southern part of the county, and one in a church, not in this Association, of forty pupils. Various ways and efforts to advance our Baptist cause have been zealously put forth by women throughout the county.

Palmetto Street Church leads in the work done the past year. The societies contributed to the various interests as follows:

Palmetto Street Church	Ladies' Aid	$187 50
	Golden Reapers (Young Ladies)	121 25
	Try Society (Children)	10 00
St. Francis Street Church—Ladies' Aid		155 00
Dauphin Street Mission—Young Ladies Society		50 00
Bayou le Batre—One Quilt for Orphanage and		18 41
Shell Banks—One quilt for Frontier Missionary and		14 00
Citronelle		
Shady Grove		11 80
Whistler		107 50
Bay Minette		
Zion		
Union		
Total		$675 46

Bibles have been given away, literature supplied, the needy looked after and the sick cared for.

We hope yet to stimulate our women into hearty co-operation and enthusiasm for the work.

LIDA B. ROBERTSON,

Vice President of Woman's Work.

It was spoken to by H. H. Shell, J. G. Lowery, D. W. Bosdell, E. P. H. Judd, and adopted.

24. H. P. Hanson presented and read the

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Our Foreign Board, located in Richmond, Va., has been greatly blessed in the prosecution of the work during the past year. Through the liberality of our Baptist people, a burdensome debt, which threatened grave disaster, has been paid off, and the Board is determined to avoid such embarrassment in the future. The Board is operating in Mexico, in Brazil, in Italy, in Japan, in China and Africa. On these fields are employed 178 laborers, including some who are not ordained. They occupy

236 churches and stations, and during the past year received into fellowship 714 persons, of whom 660 were by baptism.

The total present membership of our foreign mission churches is 4324 and the number of Sunday school teachers and pupils 1138. The total contribution of the churches for the year past was $6,658.00—something over $1.00 for each member. The Board looks hopefully for the future, closing its report in the following words: "We earnestly call upon our pastors, men whom God has honored in making teachers and leaders in Zion, to lead forth the hosts of Israel to greater conquests for the Master. With grateful hearts for God's mercies and blessings in the past, let us all see to it that the next year shall be one in which the parting command of our Savior will be carried out by us as never before. "Go ye into all the world" and in Spirit and in Truth to pray as Christ taught us; "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven." And when we sing every Sabbath, "Praise him all creatures here below," let each give something to send the gospel that the nations in darkness may know of our God and His love, and Christ our Savior.

Respectfully submitted,

H. P. Hanson,

for the Committee.

The report was spoken to by J. R. Newell, J. J. Taylor, W. A. Alexander, S. L. Freeland, E. P. H. Judd, D. W. Bosdell, J. W. Thompson, Jr., J. F. Bynum, J. M. Hall, and R. L. Maupin, and adopted.

25. The Association adjourned after prayer by J. F. Bynum.

THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

26. The Association re-assembled at 2:30 o'clock. After devotional exercises the Moderator stated that J. W. Stewart, manager of our Orphanage at Evergreen, could not be present, and requested him to present the claims of the institution to the hearts of the churches. Upon his request for the liberty of

so doing, W. A. Alexander arose and reminded the body that the Orphanage was incorporated in the regularly adopted order of business, and had a right to be presented. It was then discussed by R. L. Maupin, H. H. Shell, and W. A. Alexander. The motion that a special collection be taken up at the night session after the disposal of the report on education, was adopted, and the collection so ordered.

27. There being no report on Colportage, W. A. Alexander offered the following resolution.

Resolved, That this Association earnestly recommends that the Sunday schools represented in this Association adopt and subscribe for the Sunday school literature published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn., and that the purchase of these and all other church and Sunday school supplies be made through Bro. J. B. Collier, Secretary of the Colportage Board, at Montgomery, Alabama.

28. The committee on nominations reported as follows:

Executive Committee—E. O. Fowlkes, W. P. Roberts, G. J. Robertson, Jas. L. Coleman, A. M. Thompson, Chas. C. Coleman, S. L. Freeland, R. L. Maupin, J. N. Pollard, T. C. Gaston, R. S. Dickin, W. J. Young, W. T. West.

Delegates to State Convention—J. F. Bynum; Alternates, D. W. Bosdell and W. P. Roberts.

Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention—J. J. Taylor; Alternates, H. H. Shell and J. C. Bush.

29. The Committee on Time and Place of next meeting reported as follows:

Place of next meeting of the Association, Zion Church, Mobile County, Thursday after first Sunday in October, 1898, at 10 a. m.

H. H. Shell,

Noel Turner,

J. H. Bolton,

Committee.

30. The Chair announced the following committees to report at next session :

MISSIONS.

STATE—W. J. Young, J. D. Nelson, J. H. Bolton.

HOME—H. S. Stackhouse, E. P. H. Judd, J. R. Newell.

FOREIGN—H. H. Shell, Judge C. A. Hall, A. M. Thompson.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—G. J. Robertson, E. O. Stapleton, Noel Turner.

TEMPERANCE—E. O. Fowlkes, W. H. Pollard, G. T. Litchfield.

EDUCATION—W. A. Alexander, R. O. Dickin, J. G. Lowery.

WOMAN'S WORK—Misses Lida B. Robertson, Mary A. Russell, Lula Toomer, J. B. Stapleton.

31. The report recommending J. G. Lowery to preach the Associational Sermon in 1898, and J. F. Bynum as alternate, was adopted.

32. After a song H. H. Shell pronounced the benediction, and the Association adjourned to meet again at 7:30 p. m.

THIRD DAY—NIGHT SESSION.

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33. The Association assembled at 7:30 p. m. After a song, James Munro led in prayer.

34. G. J. Robertson presented and read the report on Education.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education beg to make the following report: This subject is one so broad and of such vital importance, it is impossible to more than touch upon it in a report like this. As a rule most of reports on the subject have been upon Ministerial Education. Of course the education of the ministry is very important, and the church that takes upon itself to recommend a young man for the ministry should fully realize the responsibility it is assuming in so doing, and be very sure that he is called of God, and that he has in him the qualities of piety, truthfulness, industry and perseverance, that will make him a proper candidate for such an exalted and sacred position. These qualities should be strengthened by that abiding faith necessary to make "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightfully dividing the word of truth."

In our efforts to educate them classically, we must not lose sight of one thing: The *Lord's hand* in shaping conditions which may be needful in moulding their characters for the special work to which he has called them. Go to the Bible for examples. David was called from the "sheep cote" to be king. The Lord fitted him through severe tests for the throne. The lesson which David learned as a subject trained him to be a wise and sympathetic ruler. Now a word about the ranks from which our preachers are to come, because a man's after life and character, as a leader, rests very strongly upon his early training in principles of love and right. Therefore, in considering the college education, which is the superstructure, we must consider the early or home education which is the foundation upon which the other is built. Individual Bibles, wholesome reading, such as good books and papers, should be provided by the head of every home. Give the young nutritious and palatable food, and they will not crave so much injurious trash as they generally do. The cravings of the mind should be more importantly considered than those of the body. Therefore in considering college education for our ministry, that of home education must go hand in hand. Our churches must look to a more earnest wide spread study of the scriptures, and more personal piety if they hope to truly educate. Respectfully submitted,

G. J. Robertson,
Dexter Russell,
N. B. Stapleton,
Committee.

The report was spoken to by F. M. Roof, President of H. C., and adopted.

35. G. J. Robertson, Treasurer of the Association read his report which was adopted.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

Total amount turned over by Finance Committee last year for minutes	$33 60		
For State Missions	9 92	$ 43 52	
Received from W. C. Bledsoe, State Secretary, for weak churches		120 00	
FOR STATE MISSIONS:			
From St. Francis Street Church		183 76	
Mauvilla Church and Sunday School		6 90	
Shady Grove Church		8 00	
Bayou le Batre Church		7 88	
Mount Pleasant Church		4 00	
Grand Bay Church		5 00	
Union Church		5 00	
Dauphin Street Mission		7 88	
Citronelle Church		25 49	
Palmetto Street Church		6 00	$423 43

DISBURSEMENTS.

For Minutes, 300 Copies	$ 22 50	
Remitted Dr. Bledsoe	9 92	
Stamps	1 10	
Paid Clerk	10 00	
Assisted Shady Grove Church to pay Pastor	55 00	
" Bayou le Batre " " " "	60 00	
" Grand Bay " " " "	60 00	
" Citronelle " " " "	72 00	
" Mt. Pleasant " " " "	15 00	
" Mauvilla " " " "	10 00	
Remitted to Dr. Bledsoe, State Secretary, over 25 per cent. of State Mission collections	71 10	$386 62
Balance on hand		$ 36 81

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

	MINUTES	MISSIONS.	TOTAL.
St Francis Street Church	$ 10 00		$ 10 00
Palmetto Street "	5 00		5 00
Citronelle "	1 00		1 00
Zion "	2 00	$ 8 00	10 00
Bayou le Batre "	1 00		1 00
Bay Minette "	1 35	22 51	23 86
Shady Grove "	1 15	2 65	3 80
Shell Banks "	1 50	2 00	3 50
Union "	1 00		1 00
Grand Bay "		5 25	5 25
Bethany "	2 05		2 05
Mauvilla "	1 00		1 00
Mount Pleasant "	2 00		2 00
Total amounts	$ 29 05	$40 41	$69 46

37. On motion of G. J. Robertson it was

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the Association be tendered to the good people of Whistler and vicinity for their cordial hospitality to delegates and visitors.

38. H. H. Shell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be extended to the Clerk for faithful work, and that he be allowed $10.00 for his services.

A. B. Gaston objected to this resolution, stating that he thought the Clerk deserved to be paid, but, if the money was taken from that contributed for minutes it would force the Clerk to curtail the printing in order to pay himself. He therefore, proposed that a special collection be taken up for

the purpose. The Clerk objected to this, and stated that he would have the minutes nicely and fully printed, and preferred to receive no pay if necessary. This stopped further discussion, and the resolution was adopted.

39. On motion of W. J. Young, it was

Resolved, That the method adopted by the Executive Committee in reference to the handling of funds for State Missions be continued during the coming year.

40. The collection for the Orphanage, as previously moved, was taken by J. B. Allen and T. C. Gaston which amounted to $7.91.

41. There being no further business the Association sang "God be with us till we meet again" and after benediction by H. H. Shell, adjourned to meet with Zion Church, Thursday after the first Sunday in October, 1898.

Sunday, August 8th, 11 o'clock a. m., Rev. J. J. Taylor, D. D., preached from James 2:23, "And he was called the Friend of God." At the conclusion of his sermon he urged upon the congregation the importance of the Mission work inaugurated by the Association, and took up a collection to supplement the funds then in the hands of the Executive Committee, which resulted in securing one hundred dollars in money and pledges, which was turned over to the Treasurer, G. J. Robertson.

At the evening meeting the large congregation unanimously adopted the following

MEMORIAL:

The Executive Committee of the Mobile Baptist Association sorrowfully report that since the adjournment of the Association last evening our beloved brother and co-worker, Rev. D. R. Cooper, has been called from his field of usefulness here to go in the Association of the Saints in the Eternal City, and we desire to record our high regard for his christian character and his devotion to the up-building and support of the Master's kingdom, not only in our midst, but also in sending the Gospel to those who have it not. He was an ardent believer in, and an active worker for, missions, and gave liberally of his time and means for this great christian cause. We therefore, in behalf of the Association recommend the following resolutions:

1st. That in the death of Brother Cooper this Association has lost one of its most efficient and active members.

2nd. That his long christian life, and beautiful, but humble character, present to us a model well worthy of our imitation.

3rd. That we are thankful to God for the life and example of such a man, realizing that his "works do follow him."

4th. That we extend to his family our sincere sympathy in their great bereavement, and that the Secretary of the Association furnish a copy of these resolutions to his family, and that they be spread on the minutes of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. Maupin,

Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee.

August 8th, 1897.

NOTES BY THE CLERK.

1. The choir's singing added greatly to the interest of the meetings.

2. Mr. J. B. Allen's vigilance kept the church in excellent order for all meetings.

3. The down-pour of rain after the adjournment kept many waiting an hour with the hope that it would stop, but it didn't, so the slipping and sliding of delegates along unfamiliar streets, was very amusing, especially the Clerk, who strode wildly for the train with minutes in one hand and satchel in the other, to find the train an hour late.

4. Miss Belle Wood was unanimously pronounced by delegates and visitors as indispensable to the Association's success.

5. The "short cut" to the church through the shops, which was tendered and supervised by Mr. Wood, was appreciated by all.

6. Mr. Garrison, Principal of the Whistler school, honored the meetings with his presence and many of the delegates with courteous invitations to his home.

LADIES' AID SOCIETIES.

Bayou le Batre—Miss Belle Slater, President.
Mrs. Annie Simonson, Secretary.

St. Francis Street—Mrs. J. J. Taylor, President.
Mrs. J. H. Locke, Secretary.

Woman's Missionary—Mrs. Lawrence Moore, President.
Miss Emma Moore, Secretary.

Palmetto Street—.....President.
Miss Laura Pugh, Secretary, 160 Chatham st., Mobile.

Citronelle—

Shady Grove—

Zion—Mrs. M. C. Farnell, President, P. O., Mobile.

ORDAINED MINISTERS CONNECTED WITH ASSOCIATION.

LAMBERT, J. S. ..... Bay Minette, Ala.

NEWELL, J. R. ..... Spring Hill, Ala.

HELVESTON, F. M. ..... Semmes, Ala.

HANSON, H. P. ..... Gasque, Ala.

LUMBARD, J. S. ..... St. Elmo, Ala.

DODD, J. B. ..... St. Elmo, Ala.

THOMPSON, J. U. ..... St. Elmo, Ala.

JUDD, E. P. H. ..... Whistler, Ala.

MYERS, D. S. ..... Whistler. Ala.

BOSDELL, D. W. ..... Whistler, Ala.

SHELL, H. H. ..... Mobile, Ala.

HALL, J. M. ..... Mobile, Ala.

VANE, JEAN. ..... Mobile, Ala.

TAYLOR, J. J., D. D. ..... Mobile, Ala.

MUNRO, JAS. ..... Mobile, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This body shall be styled THE MOBILE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and it shall meet annually at such time and place as may be duly determined.

ARTICLE II.

It shall be composed of all pastors within the bounds of this Association and of messengers from Baptist Churches holding substantially the articles of Faith adopted by this body, at the rate of one messenger for every twenty-five members.

ARTICLE III.

We adopt as our scripture belief the "Declaration of Faith" as published in the Baptist Church Manual by the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia, Pa.

ARTICLE IV.

Its object shall be, without interfering with the independence of the Churches, to concentrate Christian effort in the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom at home and abroad.

ARTICLE V.

Its officers shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties of such officers. They shall be elected annually by ballot, and remain in office until their successors are elected. The offices of Clerk and Treasurer may be in one.

ARTICLE VI.

Corresponding messengers from other bodies of our Denomination shall be entitled to all privileges except voting.

ARTICLE VII.

The business of this Association shall be conducted, between its sessions, by an Executive Committee of thirteen members, appointed annually, five of whom shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall receive and distribute all funds belonging to the Association and give an itemized report thereof, annually.

ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

STATISTICAL.

Organized	Name of Church	Location	Pastor	Clerk	Clerk's Office	Membership Last Report	Increase				Decrease				Present Membership	Sunday School.					
							Baptism.	Experi'ce.	Letter.	Restorat'n	Letter.	Exclusion	Erasure.	Death.		Superintendent	Off'rs and Teachers	Scholars Enrolled.	Av'ge Attendance.	Scholars Baptized.	No.S.S.P. Taken.
1845	St. Francis St.	Mobile	J. J. Taylor	W. A. Alexander	Mobile	670	10	....	37	1	58	4	..	12	644	D. P. Bestor	31	233	173	3	250
1872	Palmetto St.	Mobile	H. H. Shell	W. H. Hill	Mobile	344	6	2	11	1	5	2	..	2	355	W. J. Young	20	183	108	....	178
1878	Bethany	Whistler	D. W. Bosdell	T. C. Gaston	Whistler	133	3	14	2	....	2	....	..	3	147	W. P. Wood	12	123	75	....	210
1876	Zion	Mobile Co.	J. M. Hall	J. N. Pollard	Mobile	70	5	....	....	1	....	....	..	1	75	W. H. Pollard	6	59	30	....	30
1883	Shady Grove	Mobile Co.	J. F. Bynum	Noel Turner	Brannon	31	18	....	4	....	4	....	..	1	48	A. J. Hubbard	4	35	30	9	25
1868	Union	Mobile Co.	D. R. Cooper	Wm. L. Fields	St. Elmo	89	3	....	....	1	3	....	..	1	89	W. L. Fields	6	35	25	1	24
1878	Mt. Pleasant	Mobile Co.	J. U. Thompson, Jr	J. A. Wolff	Semmes	53	....	....	....	....	1	1	..	....	51	....	....	....	....	....	....
1886	Citronelle	Citronelle	A. G. Lowery	C. C. Coleman	Citronelle	14	....	....	4	....	4	....	..	1	13	A. G. Woodbury	6	22	14	....	....
1858	Shell Banks	Baldwin Co.	H. G. B. Ray	Samuel Nelson	Gasque	80	....	....	....	....	....	9	..	1	70	John A. Nelson	5	63	43	....	100
1878	Bay Minette	Baldwin Co.	J. S. Lambert	H. G. Stammyres	Bay Minette	67	3	....	5	1	1	....	..	1	74	T. C. Hand	12	80	65	....	75
1881	Bay Shore	Baldwin Co.	....	....	....	31	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	....	31	....	....	....	....	....	....
1881	Bayou le Batre	Mobile Co.	D. R. Cooper	O. T. White	Bayou le Batre	39	3	....	....	1	2	3	..	1	37	Chas. Strong	8	60	40	2	92
1894	Pine Grove	Mobile Co.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1851	Brook Cedron	Baldwin Co.	....	....	....	45	....	....	....	....	....	....	..	....	45	....	....	....	....	....	....
1896	Grand Bay	Mobile Co.	D. R. Cooper	F. P. Day	Grand Bay	12	1	....	4	....	....	....	..	....	17	....	....	....	....	....	....
1896	Mauvilla	Mobile Co.	Jas. Munro	A. B. Williams	Mauvilla	12	....	....	4	....	....	....	..	1	15	J. C. Williams	5	30	15	....	20
16	Totals	....	....	....	....	1690	52	16	71	6	80	19	..	25	1711	....	115	913	118	15	904

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FINANCIAL.

Churches	Church Expenses.	Sunday School Expenses.	Pastor's Salary.	Foreign Missions.	Home and Indian Missions.	State Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Money raised by S. Schools.	Indigent Ministers.	Baptist Orphanage.	Minutes.....	Total.	Church Property			
													Houses of Worship	Value.	Sittings	Total Value of Property.
St. Francis St.....	$1.330.92	$264 85	$2.400.00	$273.95	$211.60	$188.76	$98.55	$254.19	.....	.....	$10.00	$5,032.82	1	.....	.....	$60.000.00
Palmetto St.....	2,475.00	.....	900.00	10.00	30.00	6.00	.....	117.00	.....	$10.00	5.00	3,553.00	1	.....	.....	10,000.00
Bethany	107.50	.....	245.00	4.61	.....	1.75	.....	11.58	.....	.....	2.05	372.49	1	.....	.....	2,000.00
Zion.....	.....	3.50	100.09	2.50	.....	2.50	.....	.....	.....	3.00	2.00	113.59	1	.....	.....	1,600.00
Shady Grove.....	46.80	2.50	120.00	1.27	1.26	10.65	.....	5.03	.....	.....	1.15	188.66	1	.....	.....	500.00
Union	6.00	.....	104.28	1.50	1.75	1.75	.....	6.22	.....	.....	1.00	122.50	1	.....	.....	500.00
Mt. Pleasant.....	.....	.....	26.75	.....	.....	4.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.00	32.75	1	.....	.....	150.00
Citronelle.....	.....	.....	153.82	3.50	3.50	18.49	.....	14.33	.....	.....	1.00	194.64	1	$1,000.00	.....	1,000.00
Shell Banks.....	61.00	.....	45.65	.....	.....	2.00	.....	24.85	.....	.....	1.50	135.00	1	.....	.....	600.00
Bay Minette.....	388.23	.....	53.60	3.90	3.90	6.85	.....	9.09	$3.90	3.96	1.35	474.78	1	1,500.00	.....	1,500.00
Bay Shore.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	500.00
Bayou le Batre.....	63.41	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.35	.....	16.15	.....	3.00	1.00	92.91	1	.....	.....	1,200.00
Pine Grove.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Brook Cedron.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Bay.....	.....	.....	25.00	5.00	.....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	30.25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mauvilla	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.00	1.00	1	.....	.....	500.00
16 Totals.....	$4,478.86	$270.85	$4,174.19	$306.23	$252.01	$252.10	$98.80	$458.44	$3.90	$19.96	$29.05	$10,344.39	14	$2,500.00		$80,050.00

12 4,949.71 27.87